



**TESTIMONY OF Allison Fulton, Regional Action Council Director,
Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse**

IN SUPPORT OF
**HB 5286- AN ACT REQUIRING LABELING OF ELECTRONIC
CIGARETTES.**

Public Health Committee Public Hearing, Feb. 28, 2014

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Allison Fulton and I serve as the Regional Action Council Director of the Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse and a member of the Connecticut Prevention Network. The Ct Prevention Network is made up of the thirteen regional action councils, which combined cover the entire state of Connecticut and work to provide every community with education, training, and advocacy for substance abuse prevention and related community concerns such as behavioral health issues, violence, teen pregnancy, drunk driving, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and suicide.

I am here today to testify in support of **HB 5286- AN ACT REQUIRING LABELING OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES**. At present, there are no Federal or Connecticut restrictions on electronic cigarettes. This means there are no labeling standards or oversight over the advertising or labeling of electronic cigarettes. Electronic cigarette labels vary from product to product and are especially troubling as they appeal to children.

E-cigarettes are available in fruit and candy flavors – including bubble gum, gummy bear and chocolate – that appeal to adolescents and have been banned from cigarettes. Depending on the brand, e-cigarette cartridges typically contain nicotine, a component to produce the aerosol (e.g., propylene glycol or glycerol), and flavorings such as a fruit, mint, or chocolate. Potentially harmful constituents also have been documented in some e-cigarette cartridges, including irritants, genotoxins, and animal carcinogens. **Currently, there is no oversight over what is in an electronic cigarette nor is there any labeling standards.**

The Prevention Network supports efforts to label but would caution that without proper oversight or testing of electronic cigarettes, labels may be misleading. The Food & Drug Administration does not test these products and it would be up to the manufacturer to label honestly.

We also are concerned about defining electronic nicotine delivery system separately from cigarettes. Doing so means those electronic cigarettes would not be subject to taxation or to Connecticut's Clean Air Act. We think both should be considered as they serve as effective deterrents to smoking any substance.

Electronic cigarettes are a growing concern as stores continue to open in Connecticut that are focused exclusively on selling electronic cigarettes. There is no oversight and it is common to see advertising that appeals to minors who do not know the dangers associated with nicotine. There are known stores that focus on selling electronic cigarettes and vapors in Branford, Danbury, Milford, East Haven, Enfield, Trumbull and a prevalence of marketing on the Internet, television, print or billboards on our highways.

The Connecticut Prevention Network supports House Bill 5286 and asks you to consider other measures such as taxing e-cigarettes and expanding the Clean Air Act to include electronic cigarettes.